

REPORTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS.

JANUARY 26, 1827.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

A BILL

For the adjudication and liquidation of the claims for property taken away in violation of the Fifth Article of the Treaty of Ghent.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 *for the purpose of carrying into final effect the following in-*
4 *struments, to wit: The Convention between Great Britain and*
5 *the United States, signed at London, on the twentieth of Oc-*
6 *tober, eighteen hundred and eighteen; the award of the Em-*
7 *peror of Russia, made in pursuance thereof; the Convention*
8 *between Great Britain and the United States, signed at St.*
9 *Petersburgh, on the twelfth of July, eighteen hundred and*
10 *twenty-two, except so far as the same has been annulled; and*
11 *the Convention between Great Britain and the United States,*
12 *signed at London, on the thirteenth of November, eighteen*
13 *hundred and twenty-six, there shall be appointed a Board of*
14 *three Commissioners, also a Secretary to the said Board;*
15 *which appointments, if made during the recess of the Senate,*
16 *shall, at the next meeting of that body, be subject to nomina-*
17 *tion for their advice and consent. In case of the death, sick-*

18 ness, or necessary absence, of any such Commissioner, or the
 19 Secretary, his place shall be supplied by a new appointment,
 20 made as aforesaid. The President of the United States is hereby
 21 authorized to take any measures which he may deem expedient
 22 for organizing the said Board. It shall meet and sit
 23 at the City of Washington, and, within the space of two years
 24 from the time of its first meeting, shall examine and decide
 25 upon the validity and amount of all the claims included in
 26 the definite list transmitted by the President of the United
 27 States to the Board created under the Convention aforesaid,
 28 signed at St. Petersburg, on the twelfth of July, eighteen
 29 hundred and twenty-two, including therein the following
 30 claims, that is to say: of Benjamin Phillips, of Maryland, for
 31 five slaves; of Thomas Wallace, of the said State, for one
 32 slave; of Evariste Blanc, and Dusau de la Croix, both of
 33 Louisiana, for one slave each; and of Jumonville de Villiers,
 34 of said State, for eighty hogsheads of sugar.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Board here-
 2 by established, shall have power to provide such accommo-
 3 dation, and employ such attendance, as may be necessary for
 4 the performance of its duties. It shall meet as soon as it
 5 can be organized, and be authorized to establish such prepa-
 6 ratory rules of proceeding, and do all such other acts as it
 7 shall deem expedient, calculated to facilitate the proceedings
 8 of the claimants, and to accelerate its final judgments; but

9 no judgment or award shall be pronounced by it, in any case,
 10 until it shall be officially notified by the Government of the
 11 United States, of the ratification, by the Government of Great
 12 Britain, of the Convention aforesaid, signed at London, on the
 13 thirteenth of November, eighteen hundred and twenty-six.
 14 The Commissioners and Secretary shall, before proceeding
 15 to any business, take an oath or affirmation, to be entered
 16 on the record of their proceedings, for the faithful and dili-
 17 gent discharge of their duties ; and they shall be authorized
 18 to hear and examine witnesses, on oath, on every question re-
 19 lative to the said claims, and to receive all suitable and au-
 20 thentic testimony concerning the same.

1 **SEC. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That all records, docu-
 2 ments, and other papers, which are in the possession of the
 3 Commissioners, constituting the mixed commission under the
 4 Treaty of Ghent, when placed under the control of the Go-
 5 vernment of the United States, shall be delivered to the Com-
 6 missioners under this act.

1 **SEC. 4.** *And be it further enacted,* That the payment of
 2 such claims as may be admitted and adjusted by the said
 3 Commissioners, or the major part of them, to an amount not
 4 exceeding twelve hundred and four thousand nine hundred
 5 and sixty dollars, shall be made out of any moneys in the Trea-
 6 sury, not otherwise appropriated ; that is to say, so soon, and
 7 as often, as any of the said claims shall be adjudged to be va-

8 lid, and the principal amount shall be ascertained, there shall
 9 be paid on such claims, respectively, a sum equal to seventy-
 10 five per centum of the principal sums thereof so ascertained,
 11 and at the termination of the time hereby fixed for the disso-
 12 lution of the Board, or such earlier dissolution thereof as may
 13 be determined upon by the Board itself, after it shall have
 14 examined and decided upon all the claims aforesaid, the ba-
 15 lance of all such sums as shall be adjudged to the claimants,
 16 shall be paid: *Provided*, The whole sum adjudged or award-
 17 ed to them, collectively, shall not exceed the aforesaid sum of
 18 twelve hundred and four thousand, nine hundred and sixty
 19 dollars; and if the whole sum adjudged or awarded, shall ex-
 20 ceed that amount, the claimants shall, respectively, receive in
 21 proportion to the sums awarded to them, respectively, a part
 22 of the balance thereof remaining for distribution.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That all moneys al-
 2 ready received, and all which shall hereafter be received, un-
 3 der the Convention aforesaid, signed at London, on the thir-
 4 teenth of November, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-
 5 six, shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the compensation
 2 of the Commissioners and Secretary of the Board, hereby
 3 established, shall not exceed the following sums: to the Com-
 4 missioners, at the rate of three thousand dollars, each, per

5 annum; to the Secretary, at the rate of two thousand dollars
6 per annum.

1 **SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,*** That, for the payment
2 of the compensations of the officers of the Board, and the
3 other expenses thereof, the sum of twelve thousand dollars be,
4 and the same is hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any
5 moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.